

Application Serial No. 09/923,375
Reply to Office Action of November 30, 2005

PATENT
Docket: CU-2613

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated November 30, 2005, the Examiner states that Claims 1-6 are pending, and Claims 1-6 are rejected. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ueda (US 6,714,314). The Applicant hereby cancels Claims 1-6, and presents new process Claims 1-7.

Ueda discloses an image printing apparatus which has an image data inputting means, a command inputting device, a printing means, and a display device. The rejection considers that the image printing apparatus of Ueda has a processing device for producing a protection processed image for applying a privacy protection process to the image to be output, wherein a controlling means for displaying either one of the protection processed image and the image to be output on the display device according to the designation by a user. Regarding this point, the rejection insists a strained interpretation that when the user selects a smaller sized image to be printed out, the selection inherently provides privacy protection, and when the user selects a larger size for printing an image, the selection would be an image without protection. The rejection also insists the Applicant's specification suggests printing a smaller image as an option for privacy protection.

However, selecting the size of the printing image is not related to the privacy protection process. That is merely an operation for selecting the print size that the user wants to output (print out). In accordance with the rejection, when the user wants to get a larger size print, the privacy protection cannot be obtained regardless of whether the user wants to apply the privacy protection or not. Alternatively, if the user wants to apply the privacy protection, he cannot obtain a larger size print. In Ueda, there is no teaching or suggestion for applying privacy protection to the displayed image during a succession of printing operations.

The present application discloses that image minifying is an option for privacy protection. However, the present application does not suggest that "to print smaller image" is an option for privacy protection, although "to display smaller image" is one of the options.

Further, the claims define that "the privacy protection is applied apart from the

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printing command even if the printing command has designation of printing size to be output". This limitation is supported by the description in the Specification, for example, at page 31, line 19 - page 32, line 1 and page 14, lines 2-12. Thus, this invention as claimed is clearly distinct from Ueda.

The confirmation page disclosed by Ueda displays the image only with a size corresponding to the size to be printed out which is selected by the user. Namely, in Ueda, the displayed image is only the image to be output. Any images other than the printing size's image are not selectable. Thus, there is no controlling means for displaying either a protection processed image or the image to be output based on the designation by the user. Even if the image to be output (printed out) has a smaller size, the image should be considered only as "the image to be output", and not as any other image such as a "privacy protection processed image".

As mentioned above, since Ueda does not disclose or teach the privacy protection process and the controlling means, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by Ueda is considered not applicable to the new claims.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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